

several are general trading concerns, Tweed & Ewart, general merchants, have a fine store and stock and do a large trade. The Medicine Hat Trading Co. also do a large business under the management of Mr. Anderson formerly well known in business circles in Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg. A. C. Hawthorne, is in the general store business and is working up a large trade. Among the new concerns opened last year at Medicine Hat, one of the most important is the drug and stationery store of D. A. Black. Business has far exceeded Mr. Black's expectations since he came and he expresses himself as being well pleased with his prospects. Other leading business men of the town are J. Mitchell, butcher; W. B. Marshall, butcher; M. Leonard, baker; W. T. Finlay, lumber merchant, and A. F. Whiffin, wholesale liquors. The Merchants bank have a branch at Medicine Hat. The Medicine Hat Times is the representative public journal for this district and is an enterprising and successful concern. In addition to the industries enumerated and which are contained within the town, Medicine Hat is an important cattle centre and annually ships large numbers of typical Canadian beef steers to the markets of the east. Other advantages which might be mentioned are, coal beds, stone quarries, coal deposits, flowing gas wells, good water, a public hospital, public reading rooms, schools, churches, etc.

Leaving Medicine Hat and journeying westward the traveller soon passes into the rich Territory of Alberta, and after about five and a half hours' run reaches Calgary, its capital, 840 miles west of Winnipeg. This is the largest town in the Northwest Territories, and is beautifully situated in the valley of the Bow River. The appearance of the place is most substantial, brick and stone buildings being the rule. The district produces a beautiful variety of building stone, which has been freely made use of by builders in the erection of the business blocks and public buildings of the town, and it may safely be said that nowhere in the west are so many substantial and fine looking buildings to be seen. Calgary has a number of government offices and buildings of various kinds, a strong body of the Northwest Mounted Police, two saw mills, factories of various kinds, cold storage warehouses, flour mill, brewery, tannery, and a well-equipped fire brigade. Its streets are lighted by electricity as also is many of the buildings and its hotels are among the best in the Territories. This is also a railway centre of some importance, being the starting point for the Macleod and Edmonton branches of the C. P. R. It will in time if present promises are fulfilled, be a distributing centre for Alberta trade. The ranching interests which centre here are very large and guarantee a permanent income to the town for all time. It has had added to its population and industries within the past year the C. P. R. workshops for this division of the line which means an addition of some sixty or seventy families to the population and of several thousand dollars per month to the income. When three or four years ago empty houses could be found in the town by the score and the population was steadily decreasing, to-day the very reverse is the case and it is a fact that scarcely an empty building of any description can be found notwithstanding that considerable build-

ing was done last year. Rents have advanced in some cases as much as 25 per cent. Another evidence of the high standing of the town is the fact that a recent issue of its bonds bearing 4 per cent interest brought the high figure of 100, which is the most ever realized for these securities. The merchants of Calgary are all pleased with their prospects for 1899 and a number are enlarging their stocks and facilities for handling trade. With banking facilities the town is well supplied having branches of four of the leading Canadian banks, namely, the Bank of Montreal, Imperial, Molson's and Union. The latter only opened here last year, but already it is receiving a large amount of business and has been obliged to build new premises. The new building is of stone, two storeys high and handsomely finished inside in oak, plate glass and bronze work. The other banks are similarly housed. One of the new business enterprises projected this year is a wholesale commission house which will be opened by R. C. Thomas, who is now in the warehousing and transfer business. Much more might be said about Calgary and its commercial and industrial enterprises but space for the present is not available. Reference to the fine flour milling business of the Calgary Milling company has been purposely refrained from here as a special article with illustrations is now in the course of preparation dealing with that enterprise and will be published shortly.

Dairy Trade Items.

The Oak Lake creamery is advertised for sale or to lease.

J. H. McConnell, of Hamiota, has rented his creamery to Mr. Jury, a practical creamery man.

The Lorette Cheese and Butter company is applying for incorporation to carry on a dairy factory at Lorette, with a capital stock of \$1,000.

The Souris creamery plant is offered for sale at a considerable reduction on the original cost price, and on easy terms of payment. Tenders for the plant will be received up to March 31st, 1899, by W. G. McLaron.

The dairymen of Winnipeg think of forming a joint stock company to handle the milk supply of the city from a central depot as has been suggested in meetings held to discuss the milk question.

R. A. Lister & Co. Ltd., are putting in a complete creamery plant at Melgund for T. C. Gerrard. The capacity will be 600 cows, and the creamery will be ready for operation May 1.

A resolution has been passed by the Winnipeg Medical association, to the effect that the entire supervision and inspection of the meat and milk supply of the city should be placed in the hands of a competent veterinary surgeon, who should be a regular salaried official of the council, and report to the council or its proper committee.

The Brandon creamery has been leased by R. A. Lister & Co., Ltd., from J. Bousfield, who operated it last year. They will put in a complete new outfit of machinery and bring the business up to date in every way. This firm has also secured control of the creamery at Morris and will refit it with a new outfit of machinery and operate it this year. A. Scott is to be manager of the Morris business. April 15th has been fixed as the date for the commencement of operations.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE COMMERCIAL

Vancouver, March 20. — Northern travel has improved very much and those engaged in the Allyn and Klondike outfitting trade are very busy. Produce houses report the demand brisk, locally and up country. In Vancouver wholesalers have not been a happy family of late, and numerous bickerings have resulted frequently in prices being ruinously cut. In an attempt to come to a better understanding and prevent the undue depreciation of prices and unite in joint action for their common good, the wholesale grocers of the province have formed an exchange. The first matter which came before the exchange was the alleged discrimination in freight rates to Crow's Nest Pass in favor of Winnipeg as against Vancouver.

Shipping circles have been active, 24 vessels having been unloaded during the week, while all northern boats have had a full complement of passengers and freight.

Canners are still anxiously waiting for a modification of the salmon regulations. On Puget Sound all is activity. 20 more hatcheries are being established and there is no indication of any more hatcheries being established in British Columbia. Canners believe that the government is starving British Columbia's most valuable industry to death.

Thos. Wilson, president of the Fruit Growers' association, says that there is no reason why fruit should arrive in Manitoba markets from British Columbia in bad condition. In his private capacity he has shipped tons and never lost any. He says the association is to take every precaution this season to make a success of their shipments. A man will be engaged to keep his fingers on the pulse of the Manitoba market and report to British Columbia by wire and mail. A committee will be appointed to look after shipment and a California expert will be engaged to superintend packing and instruct farmers in the Yankee method of preparing fruit for shipment.

R. P. Rithet & Company's monthly freight and shipping report for February says: "Absence of business and the prospects of another dry season have had a serious effect on the market for grain vessels, as will be seen from the last engagement reported which is at 22s 6d net to Europe. As usual in such circumstances iron and steel vessels are striving for employment in the lumber trade and that has had the natural effect of easing off rates there, though not to any great extent. There is a fair inquiry for early loading from several quarters but vessels suitably placed are not easy to get."

The market is very impressionable and now that there is a better understanding between wholesalers is likely to advance. The market is at present well supplied with butter and eggs. Potatoes are extremely scarce at \$25 and oats are rapidly advancing, being now quoted at \$22. Meats are also in sympathy with the higher tendency of the market.

Tenders

Tenders are being called for the erection of a frame school house at Brussels, Man.

The plans for the new Dominion bank building have reached Winnipeg and tenders will be advertised for at once.